been released and deported to India in June 1986.

(d) One Shri Ram Kumar Bhardwaj, an employee in K.K.M.C. Five Thousand Area Dhallahcoy (a Construction Company), Daharan, Saudi Arabia was arrested by Saudi authorities early in 1986. Shri Bhardwaj wrote to President of Sarvadeshik Arya Prathinidhi Sabha, New Delhi, stating that he was taken into custody for possessing a copy of "Satyarth Prakash" written by Swami Dayanand Saraswati. The President of the Sabha in turn took up the matter with the Ministry. Shri Bhardwaj also wrote to PM regarding his detention.

Our Embassy in Riyadh took up the matter with the Saudi Foreign Office for intervention with the authorities concerned for the early release of Shri Bhardwaj in case he had flauted the Saudi Laws out of ignorance. Our Ambassador also met the Saudi Deputy Minister of the Interior subsequently in this regard. Shri Bhardwaj was released from detention and deported from Dahran International Airport on 19 June, 1986.

According to the Deputy Minister of Interior, Shri Bhardwaj was arrested because he started preaching to the other people in the camp in which he was working with the help of the religious literature he had brought with him.

Protection of Farm Labour

399. SHR KALPNATH RAI:
SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any efforts have been made to define and protect the rights of farm labour;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to bring forward any legislation on the subject?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) Various Labour Laws like Minimum Wages Act, Payment of Wages Act, Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act etc. are meant to protect the rights and interests of workers, including farm labour.

(c) No, Sir.

Settlement of Ram Janam Bhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute

400. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government propose to take any initiative for 'outside the Court settlement' of the Ram Janam Bhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The Government have no such proposal under consideration at present.

Opening of Show Rooms by NTC in North Eastern Region

401. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of show Rooms of National Textile Corporation in the North Eastern Region at present;

(b) whether Government are considering to open new show rooms in

all district headquarters of Assam and North Eastern Region; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THT DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) At present, there are six show rooms and one sale counter of NTC in the North Eastern Region.

(b) and (c) At present, there is no proposal with the Government to open new show rooms in other areas of Assam and North Eastern Region.

Rubber Policy

402. SHRI V. RAMANATHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a long-term rubber policy based on the detailed assessment of the country's rubber production and requirement of natural rubber is being considered; and

(b) what steps have been taken to reduce personal investments in rubber plantations and also to accelerate replantation programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With a view to stepping up the production of rubber, the Rubber Board is already implementing a number of schemes like replanting/new-planting scheme, providing of scientific and technical support, supply of high yielding planting materials, etc. and is also undertaking research on all aspects of cultivation and production of rubber. Besides, a project for accelerated development of rubber in the North Eastern Region is under implementation.

Eligible growers are provided cash subsidy, interest subsidy on bank loans, subsidy for quality seedling etc. to reduce personal investments in rubber.

Monitoring of Exports of Marine Products

403. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government regularly monitor the exports of marine catch;

(b) if so, what are the comparative figures in quantity and value of shrimp exports from India during the periods between April 1, 1985 to March 31, 1986 and April 1, 1986 to March 31, 1987;

(c) whether his Ministry has made any study regarding the reasons for stagnation in its export despite increasing number of deep-sea fishing vessels and mechanised boats engaged for the purpose; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The export figures for March 1987 are under compilation. Export of shrimps during the period from April 1985 to March 1986 was 50349 tonnes, valued at Rs. 329.82 crores and during the period from April, 1986 to February, 1987, was 45407 tonnes, valued at Rs. 349.40 crores. The comparative export during corresponding period in 1985-86 (April 1985 to February 1986) was 45689 tonnes valued at Rs. 300.14 crores.

(c) and (d) A Technical Committee has been constituted by the Ministry of Agriculture to look into the declining trend in shrimp catches.

(SOURCE.—Marine Products Export Development Authority.)